

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-10 and 12-14 are amended to delete multiple dependencies and to delete reference numerals. Also, the phrase "characterized in that" is changed to "wherein". Claims 4 and 8 are amended for clarification. Claims 11 and 15 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 16 and 17 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16 and 17 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being an independent claim. No new matter has been added.

The application is now ready for examination on the merits. If there are questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Dated: December 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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